

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 18 wherein the first recess includes a reduced opening so as to keep the cylinder of the first male member therein.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 18 wherein the second recess includes a reduced opening so as to keep the cylinder of the second male member therein.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim 18 wherein the first male member includes a bar located opposite to the cylinder thereof and spaced from the cylinder **in a direction** perpendicular to the axis, **with the bar** to be wound by ~~means of~~ an end of the collar.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim 6 wherein the second male member includes a bar located opposite to the cylinder thereof and spaced from the cylinder **in a direction** perpendicular to the axis, **with the bar** to be wound by ~~means of~~ an end of the collar.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim 13 wherein the first female member includes a bar located opposite to the first recess thereof and spaced from the first recess **in a direction** perpendicular to the axis, **with the bar** to be wound with an end of the collar.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The safety device according to claim 13 wherein the second female member includes a bar located opposite to the second recess thereof and spaced from the second recess **in a direction** perpendicular to the axis, **with the bar** to be wound with an end of the collar.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A safety device for a collar for a pet comprising a central member, a first lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member and a second lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member, wherein the central member is a male member while the lateral members are female members,

wherein the male member includes a first cylinder formed at an end and a second cylinder formed at an opposite end, and the first female member defines a first recess into which the first cylinder can be forced **and in which the first cylinder can be pivoted**, and the second female member defines a second recess into which the second cylinder can be forced **and in which the second cylinder can be pivoted**, wherein the central member includes a cavity defined in a side for receiving a nametag.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A safety device for a collar for a pet comprising a central member, a first lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member and a second lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member, wherein the central member is a male member while the lateral members are female members, wherein the male member includes a first cylinder formed at an end and a second cylinder formed at an opposite end, and the first female member defines a first recess into which the first cylinder can be forced **and in which the first cylinder can be pivoted**, and the second female member defines a second recess into which the second cylinder can be forced **and in which the second cylinder can be pivoted**, with the first and second cylinders each having an axis and a first side and a second side spaced along the axis from the first side, with the first and second cylinders having cross sections at the first and second sides of a same shape and size.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 13 with the first and second cylinders having cross sections of a constant shape and size between the first and second sides.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 14 with the first and second cylinders terminating in the first and second sides.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 15 wherein the first recess of the first female member includes a reduced opening extending parallel to and spaced from the axis so as to keep the first cylinder therein, wherein the second recess of the second female member includes a reduced opening extending parallel to and spaced from the axis so as to keep the second cylinder therein.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 13 wherein the first recess of the first female member has a length parallel to the axis of the first cylinder, with the male member including a passage spaced inwardly of the first cylinder and having a length parallel to the axis of the first cylinder generally equal to the length of the first recess for

pivotal receiving the first female member and the first recess of the first female member therein, wherein the second recess of the second female member has a length parallel to the axis of the second cylinder, with the male member including a passage spaced inwardly of the second cylinder and having a length parallel to the axis of the second cylinder generally equal to the length of the second recess for pivotal receiving the second female member and the second recess of the second female member therein.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A safety device for a collar for a pet comprising a central member, a first lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member and a second lateral member for pivotal and releasable engagement with the central member, wherein the central member is a female member while the lateral members are male members, wherein the female member includes a first recess defined in an end and a second recess defined in an opposite end, and the first male member includes a cylinder that can be forced into and pivotal within the first recess, and the second male member includes a cylinder that can be forced into and pivotal within the second recess, with the cylinders of the first and second male members each having an axis and a first side and a second side spaced along the axis from the first side, with the cylinders of the first and second male members each having cross sections at the first and second sides of a same shape and size.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 18 with the cylinders of the first and second male members each having cross sections of a constant shape and size between the first and second sides.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 19 with the cylinders of the first and second male members each terminating in the first and second sides.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 20 wherein the first recess of the female member includes a reduced opening extending parallel to and spaced from the axis so as to keep the cylinder of the first male member therein, wherein the second recess of the female member includes a reduced opening extending parallel to and spaced from the axis so as to keep the cylinder of the second male member therein.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The safety device according to claim 7 wherein the first recess of the female member has a length parallel to the axis of the cylinder of the first male member, with a first passage being defined between the bar and the cylinder of the first member and having a length parallel to the axis of the cylinder of the first male member generally equal

to the length of the first recess for pivotally receiving the female member and the first recess of the female member, wherein the second recess of the female member has a length parallel to the axis of the cylinder of the second male member, with a second passage being defined between the bar and the cylinder of the second member and having a length parallel to the axis of the cylinder of the second male member generally equal to the length of the second recess for pivotally receiving the female member and the second recess of the female member.